

A RALPH BY ANY OTHER NAME

Historians checking out Ralph Horween's career with the Chicago Cardinals may get a little confused -- most of the time he played as "R. McMahon." His brother Arnold was "A. McMahon." To add to the confusion, Ralph occasionally appeared in newspaper articles as "B.McMahon." The league had a rule against players using false names, but the fact that Ralph and his brother Arnold got away with being McMahon's shows just how strict the league was in its early years. Both brothers were backs.

Ralph and Arnie had good reason to break the league rule. They had to answer a higher authority -- their mother. They didn't want her to know they were playing pro football, at that time a profession held in some circles to rank only slightly higher than train robber.

The Horween brothers came by their name-subterfuge honestly. The family name had been changed from Horowitz to Horween.

In 1923, Ralph McMahon-Horween-Horowitz and Arnie Mc-etc. gave up their fake names when Arnie was named coach of the Cardinals.

That year was also Ralph's last as a pro football player. A late season game with the Chicago Bears drew more than 13,000 to Cub Park (Wrigley Field) and Ralph was given a check for \$275. He took the check and bought a ring -- not for a Super Bowl but for a wedding. He and Genevieve Brown eloped. It turned out pretty well. They were married for 64 years until her death in 1988.

Today, Arnold's son runs the family business in Chicago. They supply the leather used in manu-facturing footballs.

RALPH HORWEEN

HB-BB-FB 5-10 200 Harvard

b: 8/3/96, Chicago, IL

Chicago Cardinals 1921-23